

An orange speech bubble with a tail pointing towards the bottom right, containing the text "WHAT'S NEXT" in white.

**WHAT'S
NEXT**

ALEXANDRIA

#WHATSNEXTALEX



Community Dialogue

January 29, 2013





Robert Shea

*Principal, Grant Thornton
City Resident*

Introduction



Rashad Young

City Manager, City of Alexandria

Welcome



What is **What's Next Alexandria?**

A City initiative to **begin a community conversation** about civic engagement and planning for the future.

How Alexandrians can best **participate in the public decisions** that shape the City.

The Goal: Principles that will guide civic engagement and planning in Alexandria.



Robert Shea

*Principal, Grant Thornton
City Resident*

Introduction



Agenda

7:00 Welcome

7:15 Table Introductions

7:20 ACTIVITY #1 | CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

7:40 Report Out and Collect

7:55 ACTIVITY #2 | CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

8:45 Principles Review

8:55 Next Steps | Online and Next Meeting

9:00 Adjourn and Meet Your Neighbors



Where We Are





An orange speech bubble graphic with a tail pointing towards the bottom right corner. It contains text about John Porter.

John Porter

*Executive Director, ACT for Alexandria
City Resident*

What We Heard



What We Heard | Evaluations

**John Porter, Executive Director, ACT for Alexandria
City Resident**

- **More diverse participation**
- **Goals of the process**
- **More time for small group discussions**
- **Ground Rules**
- **More structure - keep us on task**
- **Facilitators should be from the community**



What We Heard | Second Poll

Feedback from Community Dialogue #1 was sorted into 8 categories to serve as the basis for civic engagement principles.

The Second Online Poll (January 4th -14th) provided an opportunity to confirm the categories or add your own suggestions

Suggestions have been incorporated into the work you will be doing tonight.



Ground Rules

- Treat each other with **respect**
- Only **one person speaks** at a time
- Listen as an **ally not an adversary**
- Ask for **clarification**, don't assume you know what someone means
- Everyone can **participate equally**; avoid dominating
- Avoid side conversations
- No one will characterize other people's view in or outside of the meeting



Why We're Here

GOALS FOR TONIGHT:

- Brainstorm and Write **Civic Engagement Principles**
- **Create Civic Engagement Frameworks** for Future Planning Processes

Activity 1

Civic Engagement Principles



Activity 1

OBJECTIVE : One Principle of Engagement

EXAMPLE : “Community Capacity”

“Public participation processes will invest in and develop long-term, collaborative working relationships and learning opportunities with community members and stakeholders.”



Activity 1 | Directions

- 1) Introduce yourselves.
- 2) Review your table's Principle Category and list of verbatim participant feedback (from the last meeting).
- 3) Assign a table Scribe to take notes and record.
- 4) As a table create and write a Principle Statement.

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INTRODUCE YOURSELVES!



Engagement Principles (20 mins)

ACCESSIBLE AND INFORMED PARTICIPATION

CIVILITY

EARLY INVOLVEMENT

INCLUSIVENESS AND EQUITY

MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

SUSTAINED COOPERATION

TRANSPARENCY

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**REPORT OUT
and
COLLECT**

Activity 2

Civic Engagement Framework



Activity 2

OBJECTIVE : Engagement Process

Create an Engagement Process that responds to your table's circled "type of project"

How does the community authentically participate in the planning process?



Activity 2 | Directions

- 1) Discuss with your table how you think the Framework should look.
- 2) Design an engagement process from Need to Solution (Include Tools).

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PRINCIPLES REVIEW

ACCESSIBLE AND INFORMED PARTICIPATION

Insert Statements

CIVILITY

Insert Statements

EARLY INVOLVEMENT

Insert Statements

INCLUSIVENESS AND EQUITY

Insert Statements

MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

Insert Statements

MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Insert Statements

SUSTAINED COOPERATION

Insert Statements

TRANSPARENCY

Insert Statements

Next Steps and Meeting Evaluations



Next Steps

Thank you to our table facilitators

Building community and City capacity

The next community dialogue

#WHATSNEXTALEX

Stay Connected!

[Alexandriava.gov/WhatsNext](https://alexandriava.gov/WhatsNext)

[Alexandriava.gov/WhatsNextEspanol](https://alexandriava.gov/WhatsNextEspanol)

Next Community Dialogue

March / April



ALEXANDRIA